
From: Ed [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 5, 2012 3:09 PM
To: Jeffrey Epstein
Subject: re[2]: What do you think of cover for my book? It can be changed

Are you back in NY? Below is draft of the last case, Amanda Knox. She is a favorite because it shows how prosecutors invent theories.

Death in Perugia

On the night of November 1st 2007, Meredith Kercher, a 21 year old exchange student from south London, was murdered in a cottage on the Via della Pergola in the ancient university city of Perugia in Umbria, Italy. Her body was found by police the next day locked in her ground floor bedroom, covered in a blood-soaked quilt. She had deep stab wounds in her neck. The only clothing on the body was a shirt pulled up to her neck. Bruises indicated she had been held down, and male DNA in her body indicated she was possibly raped. The exact time of death could not be determined because the coroner had not been allowed to immediately take the body temperature. The autopsy could only establish a time frame, between 8:55 pm and 12:50 AM. There was also evidence of a burglary, since housekeys, money, cell phones, and credit cards were missing, and a ten-pound rock had been thrown through the window of the adjoining room. When the crime scene was further processed, finger prints, palm prints, and semen was found that did not match any of the residents of the cottage. There was also a footprint of a Nike sneaker in the blood. Two witnesses had also seen a young black man running down Via della Pergola from the direction of the cottage at 10:30 PM. They said he nearly collided with them.

The black man seen running away might have been sought as a suspect if the investigators from the police's "flying squad" believed that an outsider had killed Meredith, but, within hours of finding the body, they concluded that all the evidence of burglary, including the broken window, strewn clothing, and missing belongings, had been staged to mislead them. For one thing, some of the glass fragments of the window had landed on top of the clothing on the floor indicating that the rock had been thrown through the window after not before the crime, and probably from inside the room. For another thing, it seemed unlikely that an intruder had climbed the 11.5 foot wall to enter through the window, when he could have broken a lower window for entry. They therefore assumed it was an inside job done by someone who lived in the cottage.

The insider theory narrowed the police investigation down to just even suspects: four young Italian students who rented rooms in the basement of the house, where they grew Cannabis plants; and Filomena Romanelli, Laura Mezzetti, and Amanda Knox, who shared the ground floor flat with Meredith. Each of the women had a separate bedroom which could be locked from the outside with a key. As it then turned out, it was a holiday week in Italy, and all four of the Italian men had gone away that weekend to visit their families (and had asked Meredith to water their Cannabis plants.) Filomena and Laura, both legal trainees in their late twenties, were also away and had solid alibis. That left one suspect, Amanda, a twenty year old American student from Seattle, who was at the house when the police arrived, kissing her boy friend Raffaele Sollecito. She was also stunningly attractive. Amanda's alibi was her boyfriend Raffaele, whom she had met the previous week at a classical musical recital. She told them that she had stayed over at the nearby flat of Raffaele. According to her, they had smoked marijuana, watched a DVD of the French movie *Amelia*, and slept together. She claimed she only returned to her apartment the next morning at 11 AM to change her clothing, and noticed blood in the shower. Even though Raffaele initially backed up her alibi, during the three days of interrogation, he changed his story, now saying Amanda had left his apartment at 9 pm to go to the bar, Le Chic, where he worked, and did not return until after midnight. Under intensive interrogation where she was threatened with imprisonment, and without being given a lawyer, she also altered her story, implicating Patrick Lumumba, the Congo-born owner of Le Chic. She now said Patrick had murdered her flat mate. On November 6, police arrested her, Raffaele and Patrick for the murder of Meredith. Even though Amanda subsequently retracted her accusation, claiming she had been traumatized by police threats, the theory of the prosecutors was that the murder proceeded from an orgy that got out of control. But a problem developed when a Swiss professor, who had been at the Le Chic bar on November 1st, swore

that he had an extended conversation with =atrick during the time when the murder was committed. In light of this =libi, and Amanda's admission she had falsely accused him, he had to =e released.

Meanwhile, on November 15, the prints inside Meredith's body were =dentified.. They belonged to Rudy Guede, 20 year unemployed gardener =rom the Ivory Coast. His palm print was clearly visible on the =lood-stained pillow under Meredith's hips. His DNA was found on =er clothes and inside her vagina. He also wore Nike Outbreak 2 =neakers that were consistent with the bloody footprint on the floor. =e also fit the description of the lone man seen running down the =street at 10:30 pm. He also had knowledge of the cottage. After =laying basketball in the square with the Italian men living downstairs =n the cottage, he came to their apartment earlier that week to watch =n auto race and smoke hash with them. On that occasion, he met both =eredith and Amanda.

This hard evidence unambiguously established that he was in =eredith's room, had sexual contact with her, and left the room =fter her blood was spilled. According to witnesses, he also had =een involved in other recent home invasions in Perugia and Milan. In =eptember 2007, a witness said Guede had broken into his home in =erugia at 6 am that through a window, brandished a knife, and stole =is credit cards. On October 13th, he apparently broke into a =awyer's office in Perugia through a second-story window and took a =aptop and cell phone (which were later found in his backpack). Less =han one week before the murder, he been briefly detained by police in =ilan for breaking into a nursery and stealing an 11-inch kitchen =nife.

Rudy Guede, who had fled to Germany, was extradited. But by =hat time Amanda Knox had become such a focus of the media's =ttention, and the putative sex games by an angel-faced killer such a =ornerstone of the story, that the prosecutors, even after releasing =atrick Lumumba, were not about to abandon their group murder theory.

To maintain it, chief prosecutor Giuliano Mignini teamed up the =wo insiders, Amanda and Raffaele, with the outside burglar, Rudy. =ignini previously had achieved considerable notoriety in Italy in the =001 "Monster of Florence" case when he attempted unsuccessfully to =ttribute the suicide of a Pergugian doctor to a secret satanic cult. =ow, he proposed a similar satanic scenario in which Rudy, Raffaele, =nd Amanda, went to the cottage together, attempted to force Meredith =o have sex with them, and after Rudy and Raffaele took turns molesting =er, Amanda, who he described as a "she-devil," stabbed her to death. =or the next four years, this became the prosecution theory of the =ase.

One stumbling block was a lack evidence that Rudy was together that =ight with either Amanda or Raffaele, or even had ever met Raffaele. =hile two witnesses had seen Rudy run away, he was alone. No one saw =manda or Raffaele enter or leave the cottage. Rudy who was convicted =f murder in a separate "fast track" trial did not claim that =ither Amanda or Rudy were with him. His story was Meredith herself =ad invited him to cottage at about 9 PM, had consensual foreplay with =im, but, lacking a condom, they stopped. He then left the room and =ent to the bathroom. When he emerged he saw an unknown man ran out of =he cottage, and found Meredith bleeding. So he ran away. The initial =evidence Raffaele was in the Meredith's room a Nike footprint but now =t turned out it came from Rudy's Nike sneaker. What the police =ailed to find was a single print in the room that was Raffaele's or, =or that matter, Amanda's. Since Rudy's prints were found, the room =ad not been thoroughly washed. So up until mid December 2007, the =olice and prosecutors could not place either Amanda or Raffaele at the =urder scene. Then a DNA analysis of Meredith's bra clasp, which =ad accidentally remained at the crime scene for 46 days, found DNA on it =hich matched Raffaele's and put him at the murder scene.

DNA analysis also identified both Amanda's and Meredith's DNA =n a kitchen knife in a cutlery draw in Raffeale's home. No blood was =ound on it, and, it later developed, the blade was too long to be the =urder weapon (which was never found.) Even so, since Amanda said she =ever removed the knife from Raffeale's home, and Meredith had never =isited Raffeale's, the presence of her DNA on it, assuming it was =ot cross-contamination, suggested that Raffeale took it to the cottage =n the night of the murder.

In the trial which began January 16, 2009, the prosecutor painted = gory picture of a "she devil" who tortured her room-mate with a =nife while Raffaele and Rudy sexually abused her, and when the orgy =nded, she slashed her throat, and staged a burglary to dupe the =olice, based largely on the DNA evidence of Raffaele's presence at =he scene, both Amanda and Raffaele were convicted of both murder and =exual violence. In December 2009, Amanda was sentenced to 26 years =mprisonment, and Raffeale to 25 years imprisonment.

The case was then appealed, and a independent panel of forensic =xperts was appointed to review the crucial DNA evidence. It found in =ts 145-page report that the collection of the DNA evidence linking =affaele to the crime scene had been egregiously flawed. Not only was =he DNA testimony not consistent with the actual lab reports, but a =ideo showed the key items were picked up with a dirty glove that =ight have transferred DNA samples from the suspects to

them. In short, DNA the critical evidence may have been contaminated by sloppy procedures. So on October 3, 2011, the court threw out the murder and sexual violence convictions of Amanda and Raffaele. Both were immediately released from prison, and, in a happy ending, Amanda flew back to America and got a book contract.

There are still three theories about the murder. First, the inside job theory advocated by the prosecutors, who are appealing the acquittal. Second, the lone burglar theory that holds Rudy Guede broke into cottage, encountered, and killed Meredith. Third, the two-burglar theory, based on an alleged jail house confession Guede made to a fellow prisoner (who testified at the Appeals hearing.)

My assessment is that Amanda Knox and Raffaele Sollecito are both innocent of the murder. The police investigation was wedded from the outset to the wrong narrative. It assumed that the crime scene had been staged to look like a burglary and so focused on the only available insider, Amanda. In doing so, the police neglected eye-witness sightings of a possible black burglar running from the direction of the house at the approximate time of the crime, and they provided a description. If they had investigated that obvious lead, it could have quickly led them to Rudy Guede, who the other residents in the house could identify. His finger prints, palm prints, sneaker print, and DNA inside the victim then would have established him beyond a doubt as a person at the bloody scene. And he likely would have been arrested before he had a chance to flee to Germany.

Guede had the opportunity, means, and motive to commit the crime alone. He had been to the cottage earlier that week to watch a sports event so he could have cased it for a later burglary when its residents went on holiday over the long November 1st weekend. He was experienced in such jobs, since had broken into other three places that fall. There were a number of ways he could have entered the cottage. With the help of a box, it is possible he climbed through the broken window. He also could have easily scaled the grate in the rear of the cottage and enter through the empty basement apartment (where Meredith had agreed to water the Cannabis plants). Alternatively, he could have gone in through a lower window. Afterwards, he might have smashed the window from the inside to create an expedient means of an exit, especially if he was in a panic. His DNA was found in Mededith's walletbook, and 300 Euros and credit cards were missing, which he likely took. And with a small pocket knife, he had the means to force her to the floor, and stab her. In short, there was no reason from the evidence at the murder scene, that this was not the work of a single lone invader.

The appeals court stated that the murder and sexual violence charges against Amanda and Raffaele were "not corroborated by any objective element of evidence." If the so, the orgy scenario was conjured up out of thin air by the prosecutors.

TIME LINE

2007

September 10 Meredith Kercher moves into Via della Pergola 7 in Perugia

September 20 Amanda Knox </wiki/Murder_of_Meredith_Kercher> becomes flatmate with Meredith..

October 25 Amanda starts dating Raffaele Sollecito </wiki/Murder_of_Meredith_Kercher>.

November 1 Meredith murdered in her bedroom.

November 2-6 Amanda and Raffaele questioned by police

November 6 Amanda accuses Patrick Lumumba of murder </wiki/Murder_of_Meredith_Kercher>

November 6 Amanda, Raffaele and Patrick arrested.

November 19 Rudy Guede's fingerprints identified

November 20 Guede arrested in Germany

Patrick Lumumba released

2008

October 29 : Guede convicted sentenced to 30 years. Knox and

2009

January 16 Trial of Amanda and Raffaele begins.
December 4 Knox sentenced to 26 years, Sollecito 25

2011

June 29: Court panel rejects the validity of DNA evidence
October 3 Murder convictions overturned. Amanda and Raffaele freed.

As ever,

Ed Epstein

www.edwardjayepstein.com

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